

Flight Jacket

Vol. 3, No. 9

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

March 9, 2001

Miramar Fire Department wins prestigious Ogden Award

By Sgt. A.C. Strong

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

The Navy Fire Protection Association awarded the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Fire Department the Allen G. Ogden Award for Medium Structural Category for the second year.

Jerry P. Sack, MCAS Miramar fire chief, and Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon, commander, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area, traveled to Indianapolis to accept the award.

The Ogden is presented to ensure recognition and to reward units whose efforts have maintained the highest standard of excellence resulting in the saving of lives, property and equipment.

The air station fire department, manned by 35 firefighters, won over-all last year, in the competition which judges on a variety of specifics and is not just limited to firefighting skills.

"Every year fire departments from around the world compete in this competition," said Jared R. Luck, dubbed "Lucky Charms" by his fellow firefighters. "Even being named

runner-up is an honor."

Firefighters at the station, who go by nicknames such as "Fish On," "Hollywood," and "Springer" are responsible for all structural, emergency-medical, and wildland fire calls received.

"We do support the military ARFF (Aircraft, Rescue and Firefighting)," said Daniel A. Hernandez. "But we also respond to auto-aide calls off base a lot."

The department will open a second station on Miramar in April, according to Jeff W. Wilkerson, fire station captain.

"The addition of a second station on Miramar was necessary to support the call volume," said Wilkerson. "And this will effect the surrounding community as well."

The department strives to make a difference when on call. They also sponsor charity events in the community, such as a summer charity golf tournament benefiting the San Diego



Firefighting pioneers would have been amazed at the more than 250 gallons per minute and hose pressure up to 250 psi that pound through one-and-three quarter-inch lines.

Photo by Sgt. A.C. Strong

Burn Institute.

"It allows us the opportunity to do something for the community," said Josh J. Allen, firefighter. "It's prestigious to win awards, but helping people is what it's all about."



Firefighters Josh J. Allen (front) and Jared R. Luck of the MCAS Miramar Fire Department work in tandem to control the hundreds of pounds of water pressure of the fire hose. The fire department responds to structural, emergency-medical and wildland fire calls, auto-aide calls on and off station, as well as supporting Miramar's top-ranked ARFF crews. *Photo by Sgt. A.C. Strong*

Silent Drill Team, Drum & Bugle Corps, Official Colors to perform at Miramar



Displaying the pride and discipline of the Corps, the Silent Drill Platoon executes every movement without verbal commands. They will perform here Monday as part of the Battle Colors Ceremony. *Official USMC photo*

Compiled by Public Affairs

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

MCAS Miramar is pleased to once again host the U.S. Marine Corps Battle Color Ceremony. This dynamic, colorful event will take place March 12 at 3 p.m. on the air station's flight line.

The Marine units featured in the Battle Color Ceremony – the Marine Corps Color Guard, the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and the Silent Drill Platoon – are assigned to the "Oldest Post in the Corps," Marine Barracks, Washington D.C. These Marines appear in countless ceremonies throughout the country and the world.

The U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, known as "The Commandant's Own," is the epitome of musical excellence. The Drum and Bugle Corps' superb and creative marching skills, coupled with musical excellence, is testimony to its year-round rigorous training regiment. These talented musicians combine beautifully arranged contemporary songs and traditional marching music with uniquely choreographed drill movements in a program entitled "Music in Motion."

The Silent Drill Platoon performs precision drill unlike any other unit in the world. With fixed bayonets atop their highly polished M-1 rifles, these Marines entertain the audience with their intricate drill routine performed without

See **Colors**, page 11

VMFA(AW)-225 leaves for Kuwait

By Cpl. Scott Whittington

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

The main body of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 left for Al Jabbar

Air Base, Kuwait Monday. Approximately 40 Marine pilots and aircrew left Saturday and 180 left with the main body.

"This should give the Marines exposure to a different environment and something

they've never seen before," said Sgt. Maj. Dennis M. Payne, sergeant major, VMFA(AW)-225. "They're motivated and their morale is high."

The squadron's primary mission is to provide combat search and rescue support for the next three months. Every March since 1998, various Marine units go to Kuwait for three months.

The Marines went to Kuwait in support of Operation Southern Watch. During the operation, the Marines will monitor the 32nd Parallel, Iraq's no-fly zone, and carry out any other tasks of their commander.

"I don't know what to expect," said Lance Cpl. Lenard T. Jerry, nuclear biological chemical specialist, VMFA (AW)-225. "I would like to know about their culture — other than what I see on television."

Dressed in desert camouflage utilities, the Marines loaded onto buses, drove out to the flight line, boarded an L-1011 commercial airliner and headed for the Persian Gulf.

"I want them to throw a little salt under their belts so they can say 'been there done that,'" said Payne.



Marines from VMFA(AW)-225 board a bus headed for the flight line. The squadron left Monday for a three-month deployment to Kuwait. Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington

MALS-46 holds deactivation ceremony

By Cpl. Scott Whittington

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 46 ended its 56-year existence Sunday at a deactivation ceremony held at Hangar 5.

Several former commanding officers of MALS-46 were in attendance to wish farewell to the squadron along with Lt. Col. Leandro E. Bailey, the last commanding officer of MALS-46.

The squadron began on March 1, 1944, at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro. At the time, its primary mission was to furnish its parent organization, Marine Air Defense Aircraft Group 46 with administrative capability. It also assisted in training pilots for instrument flying in combat operations.

"While this deactivation ends the formal command structure of MALS-46, it gives birth to a new beginning for MALS-41 and 42," said Bailey during his farewell speech. The Marines of MALS-46 are being sent to MALS-41 or 42.

This was not the first deactivation of the squadron. In March 1946, it was deactivated and reactivated 16 years later at Grosse Isle,

Mich. It was redesignated as Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 46 and in 1965 was relocated to Brooklyn, New York. Two years later the squadron moved again to Naval Air Station Las Alamitos. In 1971, the squadron returned to MCAS El Toro. In 1989, the squadron was redesignated to MALS-46 and in 1996 it moved here.

During its history, MALS-46 provided administrative, maintenance and supply support to its parent organization as the squadron transitioned through numerous aircraft including the A-4 Skyhawk, F-4 Phantom,

F/A-18 Hornet, CH-53 Sea Stallion, CH-46 Sea Knight, UH-1 Huey and AH-1 Cobra.

"The Marines of MALS-46 consistently exceeded all expectations," said Bailey. "In effect, they have established a drum beat, a legacy of community service and unencumbered commitment to total-force defense."

Not only did the squadron give support to Marine Aircraft Group 46, they helped out in the community. The squadron built a retaining wall for an orphanage in Japan, renovated homeless housing in Yuma, Ariz., and for the last 14 years sponsored the Youth Physical Fitness Program at St. Polycarp School and Evans Elementary School in Orange County.

"We have worked together as a family for many years and have many memories to reflect upon and enjoy," said Bailey. "We have faced many challenges and were able to overcome them through our collective efforts."

"I will miss MALS-46," said Cpl. Jeremy B. Piasecki, administrative clerk, MALS-46. "Our expertise and proficiency will live in MALS-41 or 42."



Maj. Mario Ramon, supply officer, MALS-46, salutes the squadron's colors during the unit's deactivation ceremony. Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington

Guptill relieves Gentry as MTACS-38's commander

By Cpl. W.A. Napper Jr.

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Lt. Col. Bart R. Gentry passed command of Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 38 to Lt. Col. Murray T. Guptill today, in a change of command ceremony here.

Gentry transferred to Marine Air Control Group 38 where he will serve as a special project officer until he reports to top-level school over the summer.

Guptill graduated from the Citadel on May 15, 1982, and was commissioned under the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program. After completing The Basic School in November 1982, Guptill attended the Air Traffic Control Officer's Course at Naval Air Station Millington, Tenn. After graduation,

he reported to Marine Corps Air Station Tustin as a part of Marine Air Traffic Control Squadron 38. Guptill served as the detachment officer in charge until June 1986.

For the next two years, Guptill served with Marine Air Traffic Control Squadron 18 at MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan. He was the detachment OIC for several deployments on Okinawa, Korea, Australia, mainland Japan and the Philippines. He completed the Advanced Communications Officer Course at Marine Corps Base Quantico,

Va., in July 1989. Guptill was then transferred back to Tustin to rejoin MATCS-38 as the detachment OIC.

In August 1990, Guptill was attached to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit as Ma-



Lt. Col. Bart R. Gentry



Lt. Col. Murray T. Guptill

Flight Jacket



Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr.

Commanding General
3d Marine Aircraft Wing

Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon

Commander
Marine Corps Air Bases
Western Area

Maj. T.V. Johnson

Director, Public Affairs Office

Capt. Rebecca Goodrich-Hinton

Deputy Director, Public Affairs Office

2nd Lt. Joshua G. Rushing

Managing Editor

Staff Sgt. Micheal Mink

Press Chief

Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

Editor

Sgt. A.C. Strong

Sgt. Carolyn S. Sittig

Cpl. W.A. Napper Jr.

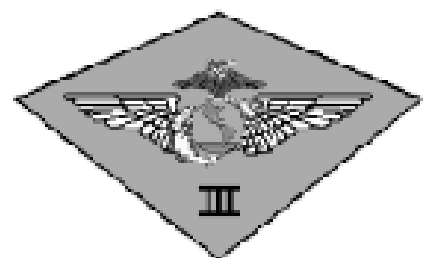
Cpl. Mike Camacho

Cpl. Rob Henderson

Cpl. Scott Whittington

Cpl. C.A. Eriksen

Combat Correspondents



The *Flight Jacket* is published every Friday at no cost to the government by Military Guides, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Navy or the U.S. Marine Corps under an exclusively written contract with the U.S. Marine Corps.

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for the military services, contents of the *Flight Jacket* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, or the U.S. Marine Corps. It is for informational purposes only and in no way should be considered directive in nature. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, or the Military Guides, of the products or service advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the *Flight Jacket*, Public Affairs Office, MCAS Miramar, (858) 577-4333. All queries concerning business matters, display ads, or paid classified ads should be directed to Military Guides, 9580 Black Mountain Road Suite C, San Diego, California 92126, or (858) 547-7343.

Survive and thrive

By Michelle Osborn

LINKS, MCAS Miramar

Deployment ... the word alone causes some Marine spouses to grimace. Though it may seem so, it doesn't have to be an awful experience.

While there are many challenges that a spouse will face when their Marine is deployed, a positive attitude and a reliable support system can turn time apart into an opportunity for self-growth.

There are many ways to survive and thrive while your Marine is away. Do you have a job? Would you like one? How about going back to school or volunteering at your child's school? Would you like to participate in activities hosted by your Marine's unit, programs at church, on the air station

or in your community?

Involving yourself in healthy activities is just one way to get through those don't-have-to-be-dreadful days of deployment, and Lifestyles, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills is just the place to show you how.

LINKS is a unique mentoring program that is designed to introduce spouses to the Marine Corps, its history, lifestyle and available resources. The program is presented in a casual session setting and everything, including refreshments and childcare, are free of charge. All Marine spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The next LINKS session is scheduled for April 17-19 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Call 577-4810 for more information or to reserve a spot for yourself and a friend.



Sergeant Major's Column

By Sgt. Maj. Ira J. Lott

MCABWA

Don't give up on our youth.

It appears that the more treacherous, more evil, more sickening a story, the more attention it gets. For example, the horrible story that took place earlier this week at Santana High School over shadowed all the good that the many students at the school have accomplished thus far. The honor students, clubs and organizations, tutors — the public at large does not know many, many outstanding contributions made by the students. Just one incident will remain in the minds of many.

There are many young adults out there that are making a difference. There are many young adults out there that are giving, unselfishly of their time to help others. There are many young adults out there that are saying, "I too can make a positive difference."

I'm here to tell you of one of our own fine young adults who has made it her passion to make a change today, tomorrow and in the future. Monique Adley, the daughter of Master Gunnery Sgt. Oscar G. Adley of HMM-165, is that young lady. Not only is she an active church and choir member, she is involved within the community through her volunteer services. She is also a mem-

ber of her church's youth group, the Boys/Girls Club and the Keystone Program here.

The Mira Mesa High School sophomore has been a very active member with our Miramar Teen Center for the past 3 years. As a member she, along with other teens, have participated in the Adopt a Grandparent Program where they travel to senior citizen residences to spend quality time with them.

For her efforts Monique will be heading to the East Coast as the Commanding General's representative to the Commandant's "Teen Summit." She will be leaving for Leesburg, Va., in May to carry the concerns of Miramar's teenagers to the commandant. Monique plans on attending University of California Los Angeles upon graduation from high school to major in psychology. The very best to you Monique.

The teen center is looking for more members with the drive and determination to make a difference, to bring fresh new ideas for activities to do and sometimes who just what to be around other teens. The Teen Center goes on field trips to Big Bear and Disneyland, holds teen dances, has a computer room and many others things. Contact Fred Taylor at 577-4136/6701 or better yet talk to Monique. She is one of the many Miramar teens who make a difference.



SAVE ENERGY

We may need it later



Saving energy, cutting costs

Staff Sgt. Jerry J. Jeffrey Jr., energy conservation staff NCOIC, H&HS, uses a light meter to determine the amount of illumination in a room. Building energy managers will then be responsible for removing unnecessary

bulbs from lighting fixtures. Each building aboard the air station will be inspected in this way as part of Tier One of Miramar's Energy Awareness Campaign.

Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington

ATTENTION COMMANDERS

Would you like to get your word out to more than just your Marines? Would you like to see your views on the Guidance Page? The Flight Jacket can help give you a wider audience than your squadron formation. The Flight Jacket staff encourages commanders, officers-in-charge, chaplains, senior enlisted leaders or anyone with a command message to submit commentaries, photographs or other content. Story submissions can be sent by mail to: FJ Editor, H&HS PAO PO Box 452013, San Diego, CA 92145; by fax to 577-6001 ATTN: FJ Editor; or by e-mail to ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil.

Ad Space

Mir **Remarks**

How do you get ready for your physical fitness test?



"Before I run the PFT I eat a Snickers bar, take a Motrin and eat a spoonful of honey. My tradition always works for me, because I always get a first class."

*Gunnery Sgt. Tashal N. Williams
VMFA(AW)-225
maintenance administration chief*



"I'm always ready for a PFT. All Marines should be ready for a PFT."

*Sgt. Travis L. Coffman
MALS-11
production controller*



"I work out as much as possible. I time myself on the run about three weeks before the PFT, then I push myself to beat that time on the PFT."

*Lance Cpl. Matt A. Hazelton
HMM-165
ordnance technician*

Apathy, careerism negatively impacting core values

By Gunnery Sgt. Scott Woosley

Commentary

NEW CUMBERLAND, Pa. — If you read the papers or watch the news regularly, you have probably seen far too many stories recently that don't reflect well on our Corps. Two of the more public incidents involved a Marine recruiter in Michigan having an inappropriate relationship with a poolee and a Marine Officer telling his Marines to falsify maintenance records.

Our collective reaction is probably along the lines of, "There are so many good stories about Marines out there, why does all this bad stuff make it into the news?" Generally we tend to blame the media for our public disgraces. We all know the media "hates" the military, especially Marines, right?

But is this accurate, or even fair? The fact is that there are Marines out there doing things that are contradictory to our core values of honor, courage and commitment. Values we publicly proclaim. So when Marines violate these values, they are likely to get publicly aired. When those who aspire to great things fall, it makes the news. That's a fact of life in our calling.

It's not news when Marines do the right thing. Everyone expects that. It is news when Marines fail to live up to our values.

The number of reported incidents alone has given me pause. I tend to buy into that old adage, "If there's smoke, there's fire," so when I hear about all these incidents I wonder how many incidents are not making it into the news. My initial hope was that these reported incidents are the only ones occurring. My own experience leads me to believe otherwise. Assault, sexual misconduct, DUIs, hit-and-runs, conspiring to commit theft, and abusing their spouses are just some of the offenses I have heard Marines charged with recently.

So, what can we do? We must police ourselves. Does that mean covering up misconduct? No. That would be another violation of our values and besides these things tend to become public anyway. Then we would have accusations of cover-ups to contend with on top of everything else.

We have to be honest with the public and

the media. Talking honestly with the media and the public about our "warts" has given us great credibility and a reputation for handling issues in an open and forthright manner. That reputation has served us well over the years.

Our option then is to look at, and be honest with ourselves. We have to find ways to reduce the occurrence of these types of incidents. Blaming the media for reporting them is ignoring the fundamental problem.

So, we are back to the original question. How do we do that? We each have to choose to live up to our core values, even when others choose not to. None of the incidents I've mentioned happened in a vacuum. There were Marines who saw the misconduct and chose not to do anything about it, ultimately perpetuating it.

In the first incident I mentioned, why didn't another recruiter or the NCOIC pull the recruiter aside and say something about his relationship with the poolee. The relationship didn't just develop over night.

In the second incident, why were so many Marines willing to go along with falsifying the maintenance records of the Osprey? Why did one Marine feel the only solution was to send a tape and copies of documents to HQMC?

If all of the Marines who were aware of what was happening in either one of these cases had stood up and said something early on, I am confident that both issues would have been resolved before they got to the point of serious misconduct and then became items in the evening news.

So why didn't anyone say anything? Did they feel they would be outnumbered? Did they feel they were ultimately doing the right thing by not rocking the boat? Was their commitment to our core values less than total? I hope not, for all our sakes.

Certainly the Marines in all of these cases who knew the conduct was inappropriate, or just plain wrong, out-numbered those who didn't want to know. What would have happened if all of those Marines had stood up and said, "This is wrong and we are not going to allow it to continue?" Peer pressure is often accused of making people do bad things, but it is capable of making people do the right thing too.

Each time we refuse to stand up for what is right, and fail live up to "Honor, Courage and Commitment," we have a harder time looking at ourselves in the mirror. When we can't look at ourselves in the mirror we begin to nick ourselves when we shave. Then we bleed. Each of these "nicks" that becomes public tarnishes our Corps image and a little bit of our collective soul oozes out, drips into the sink and ends up washed down the drain.

There are different terms for what causes us to ignore misconduct, but the ones I think are most accurate are apathy and careerism. We convince ourselves that it's not our problem; someone else will deal with it; that's between him and his wife; the Marine Corps needs the Osprey and I don't want to hinder the program; that recruiter is putting in four contracts a month and I can't afford to lose that production; or any number of other excuses. In cases where our ethics are tested, we often hope the problem will eventually go away. We don't want to risk our careers by sky-lining ourselves. Anonymity is safe, especially in numbers.

But these problems don't go away. They fester until they explode publicly, tarnishing our image. Then we all look bad, not just the individuals involved but the entire Marine Corps.

We have to be able to look at ourselves in the mirror. The longer we can't look in the mirror, the longer we will continue to nick ourselves. Yes, each individual nick will heal, but we will keep replacing them with new ones. Refusing to face up to this or ignoring it will only allow these problems to continue.

Ignoring wrongdoing is itself wrongdoing. Our core values require us to confront or report misconduct when it occurs. We cannot proclaim those values and then choose to support them selectively.

When we start upholding our core values each and every time we are faced with an ethical or moral decision, we will begin a true healing process. We will be able to look at ourselves in the mirror again. The nicks will begin to disappear for good.

We have a duty to be able to look at that Marine looking back at us in the mirror. For the sake of our Corps, it is a duty we cannot afford to shirk.

Restore the Corps, don't leave values at shop's door

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

Commentary

In our society, that is the Marine Corps, quitting is not an option. That covers every aspect of our lives collectively, and we are bound by our core values — honor, courage and commitment — to complete any mission that we are tasked with. Why then does the Marine mentality end for some Marines when the shop door closes at the end of the day?

It is no longer acceptable to believe that there are only the fabled "10 percent" that are bringing discredit to our Corps. There are just too many reported incidents involving Marines to consider that only one in ten

Marines aren't living by our credo. Logically, there are many more unreported incidents every year. Where did the trend start, and where will it end?

The answer is simple. The trend started with each individual Marine, and the trend will end with each individual Marine. Every time a Marine makes a conscious decision to disobey a rule, regulation, order or law shame is brought upon the Marine Corps image.

The ironic part of this is that most Marines who are responsible for shaming the Corps aren't murderers, thieves or bank robbers. They are the Marines who speed down the highway while wearing the uniform of the day or Marines who buy alcohol for their

underage buddies. There are a host of other "small" crimes that have brought the public image of the Marine Corps down.

In keeping with the theme of "starting small," it is time for Marines to start eradicating the small misdemeanor activities from our reputation. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt said, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent," and unfortunately, Marines are consenting to our inferior public image by committing small crimes.

Honor, courage and commitment. Take out the Corps Value card and read about what each value means. Only by applying this standard to every aspect of the lives of each Marine can the Corps truly be restored to its former glory.

NOW TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

The newspaper staff encourages Marines to submit commentaries, editorials or other articles or photographs. Story submissions can be sent by mail to: FJ Editor, H&HS PAO PO Box 452013, San Diego, CA 92145; by fax to 577-6001 ATTN: FJ Editor; or by e-mail to ombpaofflight@miramar.usmc.mil.

The opinions expressed on this page are just that, opinions, not necessarily the opinion of the government, the Department of Defense, the Marine Corps or Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

MCI is changing

By Sgt. Carolyn S. Sittig

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Things are changing in the Corps including the way Marines are able to do Marine Corps Institute courses. Some of these typically long and cumbersome courses are going by the way-side. In their place are new courses known as Interactive Multimedia Instruction.

During a recent Marine Corps Institute visit to Miramar, representatives introduced the IMI program. IMIs are a new form of MCI course that offer a more comprehensive and in-depth learning style. This new learning technique uses a combination of audio, video and text to reinforce the course being studied.

"We found that using interactive technology instead of traditional (means), Marines could learn the same amount of material in less time and do better on testing," said Lt. Col. Glenn E. Gearhard, Marine Corps Institute deputy director. Statistics show that one training course previously had a failure rate of 46 percent using traditional learning strategies. After testing Marines with the IMI, the failure rate dropped to 6 percent according the MCI.

This new MCI course tool was developed for a number of reasons. One of these was to make it easier and more efficient for Marines to get their Professional Military Education. Rather than wait to receive the MCI course books, Marines can get their course through the compact disc in a commander's library, or, in the future, over the Web, or over the base intranet.

Another benefit to having MCI's available in the IMI form is that they can be reused by Marines in an office, thus allowing for less money and time to be committed because no additional resources aside from the test booklet need to be sent out. With the book-style MCIs there wasn't as much of a chance to reuse materials since they aren't as durable as a CD, said Gearhard. Being able to reuse a CD versus spending weeks to months waiting for the paper-based MCIs to get to Marines means an increased readiness because more troops are getting professional military education or military occupational specialty-specific training a lot sooner and in higher numbers.

Currently there are three IMI course available and three more will be available by this summer, according to Gearhard. Incidental Motor Vehicle Operator, Anti-terrorism Awareness and Personal Finance are completed and can be ordered.

Courses are being developed based on how many Marines take them each year, so the more requested ones will be developed first, said Gearhard. Others being developed include: Sergeant's Course, Marine Corps Planning Process Theory & Nature of War,

See **MCI**, page 11

NMC Wives Club: Helping enlisted spouses

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

On a long train ride from New York to Long Beach, in 1936, an instant connection was made between Navy wives seeking a better life for themselves and their families.

That association has survived through the years and has grown in to the Navy and Marine Corps Wives' Club. The NMCWC Chapter #122 here inducted new officers on Saturday at the station chapel.

The incoming officers are: Rita Riddick, president; Peg Brandenbergh, vice president and chaplain; Cassie Weis, recording secretary; Liz Rodgers, corresponding secretary; and Vicky Nelson, treasurer.

The NMCWC was chartered in 1936 after the cross-country train ride, and the club of servicemembers' spouses continues to strive for a better life for servicemembers.

"The image of service wives has improved over the years. Everyone used to

consider us 'camp-followers.' Not anymore, we are respected members of society who can make things happen," said Brandenbergh, the newly appointed vice president of the NMCWC here.

The NMCWC offers several services including the food locker, scholarships for ser-

vice spouses and their children, the Fischer House for children with terminal illnesses, and toy donations to children of families who are experiencing a rough time financially.

"If there is a death in the family, a no-

See **Spouses**, page 11



(Left to right) Cassie Weis, Rita Riddick, Peg Brandenbergh and Vicky Nelson are sworn in as the NMCWC officers. Liz Rodgers was also sworn in. Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson

Ad Space

Disney's California Adventure offers fun to family members

By Cpl. Mike Camacho

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

ANAHEIM – Southern California is full of amusement parks and other fun-filled adventures for the whole family. The newest, Disney's California Adventure, offers the best of California in one park without all the travel.

The park opened Feb. 8, and is located right across from the original 46-year-old famous Disneyland. With about a two-hour drive from San Diego, Disney's version of California brings the sights and sounds of the "Golden State's" spirit to guests.

Welcoming visitors into the newest Disney experience are nine 11.5-foot tall letters spelling California, two colorful ceramic tile-mural walls depicting icons from Northern and Southern California and a model-scale version of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Ambience is everything, throughout the park, the music never stops. Entering the park, guests might hear the song, "Surfing Safari", or "California Girls" surrounding them for a true California experience.

"The music is great. I mean, everywhere I go it truly feels like California," said 35-year-old Jackie Shore, an accountant from Boise, Idaho.

It's not just the music that draws a crowd to this adventure. The park is divided into three lands – Golden State, Paradise Pier and Hollywood Pictures Backlot. Each is divided into theme areas with attractions, shops, dining adventures and live entertainment.

Golden State has six theme areas that celebrate the adventurous heritage of California and the immigrants who came looking for the golden dream.

Condor Flats is a high-desert test pilots' landing field with weathered hangars left over from man's first attempts to break the sound barrier. It's home to one of the parks most innovative attractions, Soarin' Over California. This ride uses a huge lift system where the riders' feet dangle offering adventurers a true feeling of flight. Projected on a half-dome shaped screen, the film features scenes from San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge to a departing U.S. Navy fleet off Coronado Island and from skiing at Lake Tahoe to surfing at Malibu.

"The smells changed throughout the entire flight and made it really feel like you were flying in the scenery," said 23-year-old Sailor Ripley, an aspiring actor from New York.

One of the parks signature sights, the huge, granite mountain top shaped like the head of a growling Grizzly



The Jumpin' Jellyfish ride keeps younger spirits bouncing up and down in a vessel shaped like a jellyfish that lurches up a 50-foot tower and bounces down and up again below its own parachute. Photo by Cpl. Mike Camacho

bear, rises over a High Sierra landscape. Pine and snow covered slopes adorn the home of Grizzly River Run – the wettest ride featured. These are only a few of the sights in the Golden State land.

Paying tribute to California's beachfront amusement piers, Paradise Pier offers the feel of the classics from their glory days. A huge roller coaster, built in the style of the classic wood coasters found along the coast of California, stands 12-stories high and dominates the skyline surrounding the crystal blue Paradise Bay.

The mile-long roller coaster blasts from zero to 55 mph in four seconds with a loop-de-loop around the huge face of Mickey Mouse, whose big ears create a signature image on the structure. Paradise Pier offers numerous rides and activities for the fun and sun-seeking families.

"The roller coaster is the coolest one ever – it's so

fast," said Justin Robles, a 6-year-old from Chino.

In the third land, the Hollywood Pictures Backlot, the glamour and fun of Hollywood is captured in a back lot movie set feel. Soundstages offer guests entertainment throughout. The atmosphere and attractions include Jim Henson's Muppet Vision 3-D, Superstar Limo, Disney Animation and the Hyperion Theater.

Guests are engulfed in an atmosphere that floods them with the sights and sounds of California in a single 55-acre park. With 22 shows, rides and attractions dedicated to celebrating the California experience this park is one of the most unique in the world.

Miramar's Marine Corps Community Services' ticketing office offers family packages and military discounts for several different Disney vacations. For more information call the MCCS Ticketing office at 577-4141.



The entrance to Southern California's newest amusement park welcomes guests with huge letters spelling California. The letters are large enough that guests can pass right through the middle of the "O" or between "A" and the "L". Photo courtesy of Disneyland © 2001 The Disneyland ® Resort. All Rights Reserved.

Born to be wild

Marines ride Harleys to vets' home bringing thunderous joy to former Marines

By Cpl. W.A. Napper Jr.

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

A sound like thunder fills the air. It rolls south, moving closer and closer to the United States' border to Mexico, the city of Chula Vista. It's not a storm, but a group of Marines riding their Harley Davidson motorcycles on a mission. Their destination: the Veterans Home of California at Chula Vista.

Approximately 15 Miramar Marines visited the home Feb. 18, to spend time and share some esprit de corps with former Marines who reside there. Gunery Sgt. John Faz, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Substance Abuse Counseling Center instructor and inspector, set up the meeting between the residents and the Harley-riding Marines.

"The local chapter of the Harley Owners Group was scheduled to ride to the La Jolla hospital," said Faz, who has been riding motorcycles for 38 years and owns a 1999 Harley Davidson Ultra Classic Electra Glide. "Once I looked into it I called ahead and inquired with John Smith at the Veterans Affairs home in Chula Vista and set it up."

Even Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr., commanding general, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, joined in the camaraderie, arriving astride his 2001 Harley Davidson Ultra Classic Electra Glide.

"I was at a function for the Armed Services YMCA up at Camp Pendleton, and one of the gentlemen who was in attendance works at the California VA home down at Chula Vista," he said. "He mentioned the fact that some Marines were coming down the following weekend and ... they were going to bring some items down to the vets."

Faz contacted Maj. Gen. Bolden and the general was able to meet the group of Marines in Chula Vista.

"I wasn't able to ride down with them ... but I caught up with them down at the VA home, and then rode back with them," Maj. Gen. Bolden said.

Throughout the day the motivated motorcycle Marines gave residents rides on their metal steeds and shared care packages with the Marine war veterans.

"I thought it was good for esprit de corps," said Gunnery Sgt. Ronnie Butler, Marine Aircraft Group 16 SACC sector manager, and owner of a 1996 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail. "It was a real rewarding experience to meet veterans from previous wars. There was no difference between us and them."

The residents took the Marines on a tour of their rooms, showing them pictures and scrapbooks made during their careers.

"For me it was really exciting having an opportunity to spend time with the veterans who were down there," said Maj. Gen. Bolden. "We had an opportunity to talk with them, and they seemed to be very excited that the Marines were interested in the first place and were able to take



Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr., commanding general, 3d MAW, saddles up on his 2001 Harley Davidson Ultra Classic Electra Glide. The general rode with the motorcycle Marines in a staggered-column formation up Interstate 15 back to the air station Feb. 18. Photo courtesy of John Smith

their time to bring things to them."

Maj. Gen. Bolden also said he and the visiting Marines benefited from the visit to the VA home.

"It was just a great opportunity to get out ... to associate with some of the Marines here on base ... to just get out in my spare time and have an opportunity to do something like motorcycle riding with them, because that was new to me," he said. "I think there were three groups that benefited. I did from having the experience of meeting the veterans and hearing their stories. You got a really good feeling that this was a good day – we're doing something for somebody else instead of ourselves."

"I think the second group that benefited was the Marines themselves. If they had any doubts about how you feel when you look after somebody else and don't worry about taking care of yourself, I think they learned it that day. I think they enjoyed being in the presence of some pretty spectacular people."

"The third group was the veterans themselves. I think they felt good that we came down. I don't know whether they knew what they did for us, just in sharing their time with us and their stories."

John A. Smith, Veterans Home of California at Chula Vista director of public affairs, agreed with Maj. Gen. Bolden about the effect the Marines had on the residents.

"The best thing was just the interaction between the generations of Marines," he said. "It meant a lot to the Marines who live here."

At the end of the day a thunderous noise filled the air once again, almost identical to the one earlier in the day, only more powerful. The Marines rode back to the air station with the general in a staggered-column formation, their American metal rumbled proudly on the California highway, and several Marine war veterans walked back inside with smiles on their faces as the floodgates to their memories opened.



Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr., commanding general, 3d MAW, stands with former Marines (left to right) Tom Starr, Harold Conneway and Victor Nunez at the Veterans Home of California in Chula Vista. The general met with approximately 15 Harley-riding Marines from the air station to spend time with the veterans Feb. 18.

Photo courtesy of John Smith

Ad Space

The Noble Warrior: Rescue at Hill 845

Glancing around at the clutter in my attic recently, I decided it was time to sort through some of the unpacked boxes associated with my military retirement and move to Pennsylvania. A fond smile crossed my face as I gingerly pulled out aging flight logbooks. As I randomly scanned the yellowing pages, I was surprised by the vivid and detailed recollections the numerous sorties inscribed on those pages evoked. Aviation seems to have that effect on the mind.

Locked in a trance with my memories, it was the flutter of a small newspaper clipping surrendering to gravity, as it fell from between the pages, that snapped the spell of the moment and brought me back to reality. The clipping was a one-line notice from the Navy Times announcing the death of my friend, David Cummings, during 1988. When I first cut out the obituary notice and tucked it away in my logbook, I mentally promised myself that one day I would tell the story of his heroics — in another place and time...

By Lt. Col. Gregory J. Johnson

USMC, (Ret.)

Vietnam, 1969. It was December. Reconnaissance elements from a battalion-size Viet Cong force probed the hasty defensive perimeter set up by a remote Marine observation team atop Hill 845. From afar, an OV-10 Bronco aircraft, responding to an urgent call from the outpost for close-air support, swept in low from the south. The confines of adjacent mountain ridges, coupled with a rapidly deteriorating cloud base, made the pending interdiction strike especially hazardous. Monsoon season was well underway and, like the distant thunder, the drone of the Bronco's propellers reverberated off the trees and mountain sides, striking fear in the guerrillas (as wounded VC prisoners would later relate) while providing some semblance of comfort to the beleaguered Marines.

The Bronco pilot, Capt. Dennis Herbert, and his rear seat aerial observer seemed oblivious to the danger. Directed to the attack by a ground-based forward air

controller (FAC), the Bronco pilot focused his attack on a shallow ravine leading into the outpost encampment. Squeezing off two Zuni rockets, he visually tracked the missiles (with a little body language) to the ravine where they exploded in a fury of smoke and fire.

Herbert immediately banked his aircraft sharp to the left to avoid flying debris. Quickly leveling his wings, he simultaneously pulled back hard on the control stick. His Bronco was now pointed straight up. Bleeding off airspeed for rapid altitude gain in an exchange of energy, the Bronco masked itself in the clouds to escape retaliatory ground fire and also to avoid collision with the mountains. In a matter of seconds, the aircraft punched through the cloud overcast. Herbert leveled off the aircraft, adjusted the throttle, and waited for a radio call to announce the results of his attack. The FAC reported that the attack was successful. Further probing by the enemy had ceased. For the time being a second suppression attack would not be required.

During the siege on the outpost,



Capt. Roger Henry, pilot, poses during his first tour in Vietnam when he was flying "attack Hueys." Henry flew the AH-1G helicopter that was deployed on a heroic medical evacuation mission in the Quang Nam Province, Vietnam, in December of 1969.

Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Gregory J. Johnson

however, the FAC reported a young Marine had tripped off an enemy booby trap and was seriously injured. Bleeding profusely, he was going into shock. The Bronco pilot was asked to relay a call for an immediate medical evacuation.

Meanwhile, at Landing Zone Baldy, Cobra pilot 1st. Lt. David Cummings and his aircraft commander, Capt. Roger Henry, were standing by on routine medevac escort alert in their AH-1G helicopter gunship. The rear cockpit seat of the Cobra, normally flown by the pilot in command, would today be flown by the copilot, Cummings, as part of his aircraft commander check ride. When the call came to escort medevac helicopters, the pilots launched with another Cobra to marry up with two CH-46 Sea Knight transport helicopters as part of a constituted medevac (medical evacuation) package. After a smooth join up, the flight headed 40 miles southwest of Da Nang into the Que Son Mountains in Quang Nam Province where they rendezvoused with the Bronco for a mission brief.

Weather at Hill 845 had deteriorated badly. Rain and lowering cloud bases made it virtually impossible for the large Sea Knights to get into the area for the pickup. Despite persistent maneuvering, the rescue flight finally retired to the edge of the weather mass where they loitered to wait for another opportunity to come in and pick up the wounded Marine.

After obtaining approval from the medevac mission commander, the agile Cobra flown by Henry and Cummings, proceeded in to scout the landing zone in order to facilitate a more expeditious evacuation. The worsening weather, however, prompted Henry, positioned in the higher visibility front gunner's seat, to assume control of the aircraft's more difficult-to-use side console forward cockpit flight controls. Visibility was now practically zero.

Don't miss next week's Flight Jacket for the conclusion of Johnson's noble tale of the rescue at Hill 845.

In those days, there was a variation of a popular song theme that "only mad dogs and Englishmen ventured into noonday monsoons!" Undaunted, Henry and Cummings pressed on despite harrowing weather conditions. The two Marines worked their Cobra up the mountainside amidst severe turbulence generated up and down gnarled mountain slopes. Scraping tree tops at airspeeds that often dipped below 30 knots, or required holding in perilous zero-visibility hovers, the flyers anxiously waited for a call from the outpost giving them either a visual or sound cue that they were above the elusive, ill-defined landing zone. After three hours and five different attempts (with refueling runs interjected in-between), the aviators finally found their mark.

Sporadic radio reports confirmed to Henry and Cummings their worst fear that the injured Marine was succumbing to his wounds. Guiding the Cobra down through tall trees, Henry landed the aircraft on the edge of a bomb crater in a skillful display of airmanship. The helicopter settled to the ground amid swirling debris. The tightness of the landing zone was such that only the front half of the aircraft's skids rested on the rocky outer lip of the bomb crater. While the Cobra loitered in this precarious teeter-totter position, Cummings climbed out of the aircraft to investigate the situation.

Torn and bloody, the wounded Marine was drifting in and out of shock. Having served a previous tour in Vietnam as an infantry officer, Cummings was intimately familiar with the situation now confronting him. He had seen the haunting lurk of death in young men's eyes enough times before to know that it was time to get this Marine out immediately. Death, Cummings promised himself, would not visit this Marine today if he had anything to say in the matter.

Ad Space

By Master Sgt. Dwaine Roberts

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Thankfully, the third week of the Miramar Youth Sports Basketball League unfolded as planned, but it was sort of questionable for a while there.

"We just managed to get enough volunteer coaches," said Ronald V. Hymas, youth sports director at the Youth Activity Center here.

He explained that normally there are enough volunteers, but the Youth Center is always looking for individuals who are willing to mentor and coach for the youth sports teams.

Currently youth basketball is in full swing with nearly 20 Marine and Navy teams jockeying for league honors during Saturday scrimmages. The games begin at 9 a.m. and continue well into the late afternoon.

During one such contest Saturday at the Miramar Gym, the 9- to 10-year-old Pistons and Raptors squared off in a good old-fashioned battle. It would have had the envy of all the players and coaches of the National Basketball Association ... at least according to some of the high-flying comments that were being bounced around.

"Nah, come on! This is actually the first time I've ever coached anything like this," said Coach Albert Ayala, the coach of the youth Pistons who nonetheless were ahead 13-8 at the time. "Last year, not enough coaches volunteered, and I didn't want the kids to become skeptical and quit this year," added Ayala, a staff sergeant from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. His daughter, Elicia, plays on his team.

Even lacking experience, Ayala seemed fairly astute as a sideline mentor as he directed his team to presses, fast breaks and half-court defensive maneuvers much to the direst of their unwilling Raptor opponents.

However, the action and the background was somewhat similar from the opposing bench.

"There certainly were not enough coaches when I returned from a work-up for our upcoming cruise," said Gunnery Sgt. David W. Jones, Raptors' coach from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323. "Consequently, we got started late, and the first time I coached the kids was during their first game!"

And yet, Jones added that the kids are really coming along and enjoying playing on the team. Jones' 10-year-old son Cody plays on the Raptors team as a center.

During the game, Piston standouts included: Brian Laws-Brown, Elicia Jamie, Autumn Simms, Joshua Taggart and Jake Rosenblatt. For the Raptors, the leaders were: Cody Jones, Khalil Halsey, General Roberts, Michael Castellano, Allison Murray, Terence Moore and Sarah Durian.

However, according to the Youth Activities Center director, the "real stars" are the volunteer coaches.

"The Youth Sports Program is one of our most unique, the success of which rides almost entirely on our active-duty volunteer coaches," said Freddie Taylor, Youth Activities Center director. "We just can't do it all alone."

For information on volunteering and coaching for the youth basketball, soccer, flag football, T-ball or softball teams, dial 577-4136 and ask for Ron Hymas the Youth Sports Program director.



Pistons forward Brian Laws-Brown goes for a block Saturday at the Miramar Gym. Photo by Master Sgt. Dwaine Roberts



Coach David W. Jones pulls in his Raptors during a timeout. Jones, a gunnery sergeant with VMFA-323, is a volunteer. Photo by Master Sgt. Dwaine Roberts

Ad Space



New buzz in town

Pfc. Kevin R. Evens, a supply clerk with Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 38, receives a haircut from Rhonda K. Dark barber and hairstylist at the new Four-Day Barber Shop. An empty barber's chair and a barber waiting for a chance to cut hair is an unlikely sight to see at the station barber shop on a Saturday or Sunday. The new Four-Day Barber Shop was

opened in response to an increase in the need for barbers during the peak days of Friday through Monday. Its hours are Friday through Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Mondays 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is located in the Home Center, Building 2257. With four extra chairs open on the weekends, the new barbershop should help reduce the amount of time spent waiting to getting a haircut. *Photo by Cpl. C.A. Eriksen*

Pharmacy information

Tired of waiting in line for prescriptions? The Miramar Branch Medical Clinic Pharmacy suggests some other options.

Prescriptions can be dropped off to be filled overnight and should be ready for pick up after 10 a.m. the next day at the refill pick-up window without taking a number.

At the National Mail Order Pharmacy prescriptions can be mailed for a small co-pay. The Retail Tricare Pharmacy, Retail Non-Network Pharmacy, and other pharmacies are also options that require varying co-pays.

For more information call 577-9960

NCO Symposium 2001

Are you a noncommissioned officer who wants to be more than just a casual observer? Want to make a difference in our Corps?

The NCO Symposium, April 21-25, seeks motivated NCOs to travel to Headquarters Marine Corps for a discussion group with other NCOs from around the Corps and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. Nominations should be routed through your unit sergeant major prior to March 20.

NWCA offers scholarships

The Navy Wives Clubs of America is accepting applications for scholarship grants. Eligible sons and daughters of enlisted servicemembers of the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard on active duty, retired with pay or deceased, can be awarded one of 40, \$1,500 annual scholarships.

Applicants must show a need for financial assistance, hold a current military ID card, and be of "reasonably sound scholastic standing and of good moral character."

Free movies from MCCS

Today
Sugar and Spice (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.
Cast Away (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.
Saturday
Rugrats in Paris (G) 6:30 p.m.
Sugar and Spice (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.
Sunday
Rugrats in Paris (G) 1 p.m.
Double Take (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday
Snatch (R) 6:30 p.m.
Thursday
102 Dalmations (G) 2 p.m.
Cast Away (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.

The station theater is equipped with a 35 mm projection system and Dolby Digital Surround Sound. All movies are free for everyone. For movie synopses see the current theater flyer or call 577-4143.

Requests for applications in the form of a self-addressed, stamped business envelope, should be sent to:

Mrs. Barbara Stead
NWCA Scholarship Director
3848 Old Colony Circle
Virginia Beach, VA 23452-2910
The submission deadline is May 30.

Nominations sought for drug awareness award

Marine Administrative Message 092/01 announces that the Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Awards program is seeking nominations for consideration of individuals and programs that exhibit enthusiasm and energy in designing and implementing drug demand reduction programs that benefit our Corps.

For more information see MARADMIN 092/01 or contact Johnnie L. Hawkins at 703-784-9526.

Online chess tournament

An online military chess tournament will be held March 17 at <http://www.zone.com>. It is an invite-only tournament. Players must email marinechess@yahoo.com to register giving their name (last, first, middle initial), rank (enlisted, warrant or officer), military branch, duty station, and U.S. Chess Federation rating.

Contact Master Sgt. Dwaine Roberts at 577-6648 for local club and tournament information.

All-Marine Skeet team seeks competitors

MCCS will select a five-person, all-Marine team to compete in the Armed Forces Skeet Championship in Phoenix May 10-19.

Interested Marines must submit resumes containing command endorsement and must be National Skeet Shooting Association members.

For more information call (703) 784-9542.

Gray Ghosts seek scholarship nominations

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 531, known as the "Gray Ghosts," will award one or more \$1,000 college scholarships to the son or daughter of former members of VMF/VMF(N) or VMFA-531.

Scholarship applicants must be the child of a former member of VMF/VMF(N) or VMFA-531 with a gross family income that does not exceed \$47,000 per year. Application packages will be forwarded to nominees.

Nominations should be mailed to:
Colonel Bob Schultz, USMC (ret.)
105 Lakeside Drive
Havelock, NC 28532

Nomination packages should include a return address and phone number; the full name of the nominee; and the name, grade and social security number of the parent and when he or she served.

The deadline for nominations is April 1. For more information, contact Col. Schultz at (252) 477-2555.

Circus Chimera opens March 19

The circus is coming here, March 19 and 20. Circus Chimera is a one ring, Euro-style circus, featuring all human performers. Enjoy high-wire and balancing acts set to multimedia special effects, F/X lighting, unforgettable music and more.

There will be one show March 19 and two shows March 20.

Multi-Cultural Heritage Day needs volunteers

Think you've got talent? Volunteers are needed for this year's Multi-Cultural Heritage Day, scheduled to take place in May.

Previous events included Spanish dancers, Martial Arts demonstrations, and belly dancers just to name a few.

Event coordinators invite active-duty military, retirees, civil service, family members and civilians to become involved.

For details, call Donna Ronan at 577-9812.

Exchange/Commissary Advisory Board meets

The quarterly meeting of the Exchange/Commissary Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, at 11 a.m.

All advisory board representatives are encouraged to attend the meeting which will be at the Miramar Exchange conference room, located at bldg. 2660.

For more information call Christine Greenberg at 577-4460 or 695-7218.

Tiny Tots seeks accreditation

The Youth Center's Tiny Tots program is seeking accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Youth Children. It accepts 3 to 5 year old children and supports the Navy overflow from the air station Child Development Center.

Tiny Tots is a part-day program is housed in the annex behind the Youth Center. Children can attend either the Monday, Wednesday and Friday program or the Tuesday and Thursday program.

Future Housing Brief

The Navy housing director will present a brief on future housing within San Diego, Tuesday, at 9 a.m.

All ranks and spouses are invited to attend this one-time-only brief.

The Public Private Venture Program, an initiative to privatize military housing, will be discussed during the meeting. The proposed privatization would allow a private contractor to build and maintain the housing units with zero out-of-pocket cost for the servicemember, according to housing representatives.

Marines are encouraged to bring questions and comments to the brief.

Ad Space

Colors,
continued from page 1

verbal commands. The Silent Drill Platoon's rifle inspector highlights the performance with an unrivaled inspection of his Marines.

The Battle Colors are the official Colors of the Marine Corps. The 49 streamers and silver bands displayed on the Battle Color commemorate the military campaigns in which Marines have participated. These battles span the entire history of our nation, from the American Revolution to the Gulf War. The Color Sergeant is responsible for carrying the national Colors and is considered the senior sergeant in the Marine Corps. This Marine is selected for the eminent position from among many outstanding sergeants throughout the Corps.

The Battle Color Ceremony demonstrates qualities that all Marines hold dear: pride, discipline, esprit de corps, tradition and teamwork. The values exhibited in this ceremony have been handed down to each successive generation of Marines since the Corps was founded Nov. 10, 1775.

MTACS-38,
continued from page 2

rine Air Control Group 38's detachment OIC. During operations Desert Shield and Desert

Storm he served with the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade as an assistant air officer, and with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) for follow-on operations. In September 1991, Guptill served as Marine Air Traffic Control Squadron 48's active-duty OIC. Nine months later, he assumed the duties of the air traffic control facility officer for MCAS El Toro. While there, he assisted in the transition planning for the closing of El Toro and Tustin. He also assisted in the design and transition of units from those air stations to Miramar.

In May 1995, Guptill was transferred to Marine Corps Recruiting Station Nashville, Tenn., as the commanding officer. Following his tour there, he reported to Headquarters, Allied Forces, Southern Europe, in Naples, Italy. His duties in the J-5 were as the section chief, advanced plans and staff officer in the crisis plans section for both Operations Allied Force and Allied Harbor.

His personal decorations include the Joint Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star, Joint Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with one gold star, Navy Achievement Medal and Combat Action Ribbon. He is married to the former Janice Lee Johnson of Orange County.

Spouses,
continued from page 5

pay-due week, or a baby in the hospital, we're here with the food locker and toys to help the family," said Brandenbergh.

The NMCWC also actively lobbies Congress for various quality-of-life issues. Right now, the national president of the club is building a case for better housing in the San Diego area, said Brandenbergh.

"We don't have adequate housing here in San Diego. That's an issue we need to resolve," said Brandenbergh. "We're not political, but there are some issues where we can lobby for some change."

The club exists to give Navy and Marine Corps spouses a friend with some know-how about the military lifestyle.

"We are an ear for the young wives. If we don't know the answers to their questions, we'll find them," said Brandenbergh.

The Navy and Marine Corps Wives Club is the only national federation of Navy and

Marine Corps spouses. They have come along way since the train ride, but there is still a ways to go. The club is always looking for new members and volunteers to help in the various charities.

For more information call 577-6550.

MCI,
continued from page 5

Fundamentals of Marine Corps Leadership, Marine Armor NCO Program, Fire Support, Infantry Patrolling, Landmine Warfare, Rifleman Combat Skills, Hazardous Material, Status of Resources Training Systems clerk, Math for Marines and Senior clerks course.

The CDs take three to six weeks to be delivered and can be ordered by shop officers in charge. To order them, the OIC simply contacts MCI via the Internet at <http://www.mci.usmc.mil> or by the phone at 1-800-624-8762.



Classified Space